

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 07951 101544Z

43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-15 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

ACDA-19 A-01 OPR-02 SY-10 OC-06 DRC-01 /148 W

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P 101503Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0070

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 3865

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7951

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAEL SITUATION REPORT

1. NEWS COVERAGE TODAY HAS GIVEN ISRAELIS FEW DETAILS AS TO CURRENT SITUATION. ALTHOUGH LENGTH OF NEWS PROGRAMS HAS BEEN EXPANDED, ADDITIONAL TIME ALLOTTED TO NEWS BRODCASTER HAS BEEN DEVOTED TO MORALE BOOSTING STORIES, SUCH AS EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL BY US POLITICAL FIGURES AND BY JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN WEST EUROPE AND THE U.S.. COMMENTARY ON MILITARY SITUATION BY RES GEN HAIM HERZOG ON 1:30 PM NEWS WAS NOTABLE FOR ITS GENERALIZATIONS AND LACK OF CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM THAT WAS PRESENT IN HIS ANALYSES OF PREVIOUS DAYS. HERZOG SAID THAT EVERYTHING WAS "VERY SATISFACTORY

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 07951 101544Z

AND GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN" BUT WHEN PRESSED FOR

MORE CLEAR-CUT APPRAISAL OF SITUATION IN SINAI, ALL HERZOG COULD COME UP WITH WAS THAT "BOTH SIDES WERE JOCKEYING FOR POSITION" AND ISRAEL WAS LETTING THE EGYPTIANS ON WEST SIDE OF CANAL STEW IN THEIR OWN JUICE." HERZOG'S APPRAISAL OF THE SITUATION WAS HARDLY LIKELY TO SATISFY THE ISRAELI PUBLIC.

2. MOOD IN COUNTRY HAS GROWN MORE SOMBER. ISRAELI CONTACTS HAVE TOLD US THEY SENSE WAR CAMPAIGN IS NOT GOING WELL, PARTLY BECAUSE OF DEARTH OF NEWS, PARTLY ON ACCOUNT OF STATEMENT ON TV LAST EVENING OF WELL RESPECTED GENERAL YARIV THAT IDF HAD EVACUATED MOST OF BAR LEV LINE AND THAT WAR WILL NOT BE A SHORT ONE. ISRAELIS ARE ALSO TELLING US THEY FEAR CASUALITY RATE MAY BE VERY HIGH. CRITICISM IS HEARD OF GOI FOR LETTING OTHER SIDE STRIKE FIRST BLOW IN WAR.

3. ON THE SURFACE, LIFE IN ISRAEL'S CITIES HAS CONTINUED TO HAVE AN AIR OF NORMALITY. STORES ARE STILL WELL STOCKED AND RATIONING HAS NOT BEEN MENTIONED. THE BLACKOUT CONTINUES AND IS BEING ENFORCED STRINGENTLY , AND CITIES ARE PITCHBLACK BY NIGHTFALL. EXCEPTION APPEARS TO BE LOD AIRPORT AS IT RECEIVES FLIGHTS AT NIGHT. AN AIR RAID ALERT AT 4:30 AM HAD TEL AVIV'S INHABITANTS SCRAMBLING FOR THEIR BATHROBES, BUT THE ALL CLEAR SOUNDED WITHIN TEN MINUTES AND PEOPLE FILTERED BACK TO THEIR HOMES TO TRY TO CONTINUE THEIR INTERRUPTED SLEEP. NO ANNOUNCEMENT APPEARED IN THE MEDIA ABOUT WHAT CAUSED THE ALERT. ISRAELI MOTHERS WILL HAVE THEIR HANDS FULL STARTING TOMORROW WHEN ALL SCHOOLS RECESS FOR AN ELEVEN DAY VACATION.

4. LOD AIRPORT CONTINUES TO BE OPEN TO CIVIL AVIATION ALTHOUGH FLIGHTS ARE NOT ADHERING TO THEIR REGULAR SCHEDULES. ISRAELI SECURITY SERVICES HAVE STATED TO US THAT THERE IS "NO CHANGE IN THE PASSIVE ATTITUDE" OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES' INHABITANTS. SECURITY CHECKPOINTS HAVE BEEN PLACED AT SOME ROADS LEADING INTO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND ISRAELI CARS ENTERING THE GAZA STRIP HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO TRAVEL IN PAIRS.

5. CONSULAR SECTION REPORTS THAT NUMBER OF INQUIRIES ABOUT CURRENT SITUATION BY AMCITS IS UP CONSIDERABLY FROM
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PAGE 03 TEL AV 07951 101544Z

YESTERDAY.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS KEATING
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